

We enter the story in Part 2, after the Doctor has rescued Sarah from the nuclear reactor. The mental control of Eldrad's hand has been broken, and the Doctor is checking her with a Geiger counter when Professor Watson bursts in, clearly out for her blood. The Doctor tactfully defends her, pointing out that she was not in her right senses when she caused the nuclear emergency. He leans towards Sarah and gives her a smile. 'No spanking, then?' she whispers hopefully to him.

'Not this time,' he replies. 'Finding the hand wasn't your fault.' And then, lifting his voice for the Professor's ears, he begins to explain what happened.

But Sarah's luck won't hold out when we leap forward to Part 3. After the air strike on the plant, the Doctor decides to go in alone to meet with the alien, and gives firm orders that nobody should follow him. But Sarah directly disobeys him, tricking Watson with her initial show of compliance. So far, so televised. But the Doctor glowers a little more when she tries to justify herself, and once they are inside the building, he halts his stride and picks up her wrist to and check her watch.

'By my reckoning we have six minutes before the creature metabolizes the radiation and reforms itself. Which should be just about long enough.'

'Long enough for what?' asks Sarah, with a sinking feeling that she already knows the answer.

'For this,' says the Doctor, sitting on a bulkhead and turning her across his knee. Her pink striped overalls tauten across her bottom, showing the white of her panties underneath. He brings his palm smartly down with a resounding slap, and Sarah yelps. There follows a short, sharp spanking while Sarah kicks her legs helplessly in the air.

The Doctor sets her on her feet. 'And that, I think, is the first ever spanking in recorded history to have taken place inside a nuclear power station,' he says.

'Recorded?' chirps Sarah. The Doctor looks meaningfully at her, then raises his eyes to the security camera trained on them. Sarah shrills in horror.

'Come on,' says the Doctor. 'We've got to be down at the reactor in the next two minutes.' And, noticing the look of discomfiture on Sarah's face, he adds, 'I'll see about wiping the tape later. But right now we must get on!' Together they make their way to meet the regenerated form of Eldrad...

And so we jump ahead to the end of the story, with Sarah pouring out her litany of complaints about life with the Doctor as he calls for instrument after instrument for his repairs. 'And, boy, am I sick of that sonic screwdriver!' concludes Sarah, whacking it at him with such force that it clatters to the floor. She watches in horror as the end breaks off on impact. There is a moment of uneasy silence, and then, in a small voice, she says, 'I'm sick of being spanked

too.'

The Doctor lunges at her, but she is too quick and retreats to the far side of the console. He makes a move one way, but reverses it as she takes evasive action. But Sarah has long experience of this situation, and her reactions are too sharp to let her be caught that easily. The Doctor chases her round the console when suddenly he comes to a dead stop. Sarah seizes her unexpected opportunity and dashes out of the door, while the Doctor takes his mental call from Gallifrey... So when she ventures back, hoping his temper has cooled, it is to learn that she has to go.

After her goodbyes, she finds herself deposited in the wrong street. There may be a dog there, as on screen, but there is also a newsstand. The hoarding reads: 'Hoax Terror Attack on Nuclear Power Station: Culprit Receives Summary Justice at Scene of Crime.' Curious, she picks up a paper. 'Oh, Doctor, you forgot,' she says, blushing. The front page story is illustrated with a screen grab from the security camera footage, which clearly shows her across the Doctor's knee...

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We're going to start with a scene we never got in the televised version of 'The Hand of Fear'. The Doctor is always promising Sarah trips to fabulous holiday planets, but they always seem to get diverted, so I thought it was time she had a treat...

The TARDIS has been on the planet Solitus for two weeks. As Sarah enters the control room, she is towelling her hair after one last dip in the planet's famous invigorating oceans. Her black onepiece swimsuit still glistens with the iridescence of the waters.

'That was marvelous, Doctor, thank you,' she beams. 'At long last you've managed to steer the TARDIS to *exactly* the right place!'

The Doctor puts down her suitcases with a thump that's little louder than necessary. 'And what's 'at long last' supposed to mean?'

Sarah continues drying her hair. Tiny rivulets from the rest of her run down her bare legs, creating a little pool on the control room floor. 'Well, you can't say holidays usually bring out your prowess as a navigator, can you? Remember when you promised to take me to Cassiopeia and we ended up freezing at the South Pole?'

'So you're saying...' begins the Doctor. But Sarah has warmed to her subject.

'Then there was Florana, where according to you the air is like a magic potion. Only I never got to find out because we fetched up in some rotten gloomy old quarry of a planet.'

‘But you have to remember....’

‘Not to mention all those times you tried to take me home, or back to UNIT HQ, and we ended up on the wrong planet or the wrong century or somewhere that looks like a quarry.’

‘But always an *interesting* quarry,’ insists the Doctor.

‘Unlike you, Doctor, I *don’t* always find it interesting to be shot at and threatened by monsters,’ she snaps, then realizes she’s being ungracious. Her voice softens again. ‘And that’s why I’ve enjoyed the last fortnight so much, thank you.’

The Doctor frowns in irritation. There is the slightest hint that he has found the last fortnight desperately boring. ‘Well, it’s back to normal now,’ he says evenly.

‘Ah well, I suppose I’d better get out of these wet things,’ says Sarah. ‘And put on something nice that will only get wet in a swamp,’ she adds sarcastically.

The Doctor’s irritation deepens. ‘And I’ll program the coordinates into the TARDIS. Anywhere particular you want to go?’

‘Is there any point?’ says Sarah. ‘Wherever you try to take us, we’re bound to end up in a quarry.’ And with that parting shot she turns to go.

The Doctor watches the glistening black curves of her bottom as she takes a step away, and makes a snap decision. His hand snakes out and grabs her wrist. ‘One thing you’ve forgotten,’ he says. ‘I grant you the TARDIS has a nose for adventure and doesn’t always take us to the expected place. Every time that happens, you have something to say about my ability to steer her correctly. And then, every time, I give you a spanking. So guess what’s going to happen now...’

‘That’s not fair,’ protests Sarah. ‘You haven’t made the mistake yet!’ But she is already across his knee.

‘Well, I seem to have been criticized in advance,’ he says, raising his right hand. ‘So you can have this in advance too.’ His palm lands in a firm smack on her gleaming wet bottom. For the next minute, the sounds of slapping and squealing rise above the ambient hum of the TARDIS console while Sarah struggles futilely to get loose.

It is a chastened Sarah with a stinging rear who goes off to change. She is still rubbing her bottom when she returns wearing the pink striped overalls.

‘We’ve arrived,’ says the Doctor, and presses the button to uncover the scanner screen.

Sarah surveys the landscape. 'Ah,' she says, daringly. 'A quarry.'

'No it's not,' says the Doctor. 'I'd say it's the planet Silex 4. Which happens to *look* a lot like an Earth quarry, I grant you. Now, I wonder if it's their cricket season...'

And so they leave the TARDIS and the story gets under way, with the realization that Sarah's right and it is indeed a quarry...

We'll dip in again at the hospital where Sarah has been taken after she was buried under the rockfall. As is procedure, she has been undressed while still unconscious and given a very thorough external inspection. Now the Indian doctor is discussing her case with the Gallifreyan Doctor. Apart from the constriction in the hand that's holding Eldrad's ring, she's remarkably undamaged by the accident. 'But there is one other perplexing thing,' says the Indian doctor. 'I can only imagine she must have sat down very hard, very very hard, when the rocks fell. I can tell you, I don't think she will be sitting nearly so comfortably for the next few days.'

The Doctor is about to point out the other logical possibility, that the trauma happened before the rockfall, but decides to leave the Indian doctor with his little mystery. Sarah would be embarrassed to know that her red bottom is a subject for medical debate, but even more so if everyone knew how she got it. Instead, he just asks to see her and they go to her room.

There she is, lying in the bed unconscious, but prone rather than on her back. 'She wouldn't settle any other way,' explains the nurse. 'If it wasn't so ridiculous, I'd say someone had given her a good spanking lately!'

The Doctor keeps his mouth shut...

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